Cool Tools Review and Lesson Plan for **LoiloNotes**

Of the many cool tool sessions I attended, the app that was most captivating to me was “LoiloNote.” LoiloNote was cleverly designed, easy to learn and use, and applicable to many uses in an educational setting.

LoiloNote consists of “cards” that can be strung together digitally, and played back as a slide show. The cards are constructed from drawn or typed messages as well as web images. Constructing a card is a creative activity consisting of many different colors and types of fonts and background colors. An intriguing feature of LoiloNote is the ability to share cards with another user through a digital “tunnel,” which is a portal to another desktop.

The most beneficial feature of the LoiloNote app is its flexibility. This app can be used as an assessment tool by teachers. Even young students can construct a mini-slideshow within one forty-five minute class period, including 15 minutes of time allowed for research, once they become familiar with the app.

Below I have proposed just one of the many lesson plans that would be applicable for use with LoiloNote, drafting a digital literacy plan using the “flower model.” I anticipate that my students will be extremely engaged in a lesson plan that includes LoiloNote, and I am looking forward to using it in my science classroom.

**Learners**: Grade 6 Science Class at St. Peter School

**Community**: Warwick, RI, located in the Gaspee Plat near the Narragansett Bay

**Self**: K-8 Science Teacher

**Context**: Grade 6 students have recently completed the Project Narragansett Program, which was designed to increase awareness and stewardship of Narragansett Bay in the surrounding community.

**Task/Activity**: Communicate to your school community why you consider yourself a life-long “steward” of Narragansett Bay. Show your school community how your goals for the Bay reflect the goals of the “Save the Bay” organization in Rhode Island by constructing a slide-show using a 7-10 card LoiloNote,

**Purpose**: Project Narragansett is a grant-funded program run by Save the Bay. The goal of Save the Bay is to promote awareness and life-long stewardship of Narragansett Bay among citizens living in the Bay area. St. Peter School Grade 6 students have participated in the Project Narragansett program and the LoiloNote activity will be used to assess understanding of this goal.

**Standards**:

* MS-LS2-1. Analyze and interpret data to provide evidence for the effects of resource availability on organisms and populations of organisms in an ecosystem
* MS-LS2-4. Construct an argument supported by empirical evidence that changes to physical or biological components of an ecosystem affect populations
* SL-8-5. Integrate multimedia and visual displays into presentations to clarify information, strengthen claims and evidence, and add interest.

**Work Products**:

* Observations from field research
* LoiloNote app
* Think, Pair, Share

**Content-Texts**:

* Save the Bay web site
* Field Journal notes

**Tools**:

* LoiloNote app
* Microsoft Word

**Pedagogy-Instructional Strategies**:

* Ask students to compare personal field notes about the goals of Save the Bay
* Have students work in pairs to investigate and clarify goals from Save the Bay website. Decide how your goals for the well-being of the bay reflect the goals of Save the Bay.
* Demonstrate LoiloNote app and encourage students to practice making a few “cards.”
* Think, pair, share a message for the St. Peter School community using 7-10 LoiloNote cards about the goals of Save the Bay and Project Narragansett and your role as a “steward” of the bay. Encourage the use of web images as well as typed and drawn cards. Use personal field trip photos if possible.
* Play slideshows on iPad during Meet the Teachers night.

**Constaints of tool to accomplish purpose:**

* LoiloNote has a linear format. If a student wanted to organize a presentation that showed multiple relationships among factors, the linear format would be inadequate. Students using LoiloNote are constrained to a slideshow type of presentation.
* Other digital products such as Inspiration.com and Mindmeister.com use a concept map type of format that provides additional information about relationships among factors.